

**PRESS RELEASE FROM
PRESIDING OFFICER DUWAYNE GREGORY**



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CONTACT: MICHAEL PITCHER

Office: 631-853-6967

Cell: 631-806-6115

Email: Michael.Pitcher@suffolkcountyny.gov

Presiding Officer Gregory Announces Legislature Meetings to Be Video Streamed

Suffolk County Legislature Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory says that County Legislature general meetings will be video streamed and available on-line in real time beginning with the Legislature's September 9 general meeting.

"This is an important step in our efforts to make Suffolk County government as transparent as possible, and it is my hope that it will give many more people the opportunity to take part in the legislative process," said PO Gregory. To access the videos, go to the Legislature's web site-- <http://legis.suffolkcountyny.gov/>--and click on the live streaming button at the top of the page.

"Presiding Officer Gregory has kept his promise for a more open and transparent legislature," said Deputy Presiding Officer Jay Schneiderman. "By putting legislative proceedings online, the public can easily access this important decision-making body."

"Government should be transparent," stated Suffolk County Majority Leader Rob Calarco. "By enabling our residents to view Suffolk County meetings from the convenience of their own computers, we can be more accountable and ultimately increase civic participation."

"I voted for this resolution and am hopeful that it will increase our fiscal responsibility as people see how we vote," said Legislator Robert Trotta.

PO Gregory plans an ambitious campaign to publicize the availability of real-time video streaming of Suffolk County governmental meetings. Among the groups he plans to reach out to and encourage to help contact as many people as possible about the video streaming are not-for-profit agencies and county contract agencies; civic associations, good government groups like the League of Women Voters and the New York Public Interest Research Group; local school government and civics teachers; and all media outlets in the county. He also hopes to do Public Service Announcements on local radio stations.

In addition, PO Gregory will make a link to the video-streaming available to any organization that is willing to post it on their web site.

“We want to do everything we can to maximize the number of viewers who use the video streaming to follow their public officials and get more involved in the operation of county government,” said PO Gregory. “We recognize that it is impossible for many people to actually attend our meetings due to the myriad other commitments in their lives but this video streaming now offers them another way to take part in Suffolk County government.”

The video equipment has been installed by Adwar Video based in Farmingdale and a contract signed with IQM2 in Ronkonkoma to provide necessary hardware, hosting services and web portal use. CDs of all meeting will be available through the office of Clerk of the Legislature Tim Laube for a nominal fee of around \$1 per CD. Mr. Laube will also make copies for free for constituents who bring in their own CD or flash drive.